

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Thursday, **April 1, 2004**, at 12:30 p.m. Chair Sarena Seifer presided.

PRESENT: *Professors* Seifer (chair), Fridley, Okada and Robertson;
 Ex officio members Arkans, de Tornyay, Hoard, Whang and Whitney;
 Guest Peter Dewey, Assistant Director of Transportation Services

ABSENT: *Professors* Kozuki, Mayer and Regnier;
 Ex officio member Castic.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of February 3, 2004 were approved as written.

Proposed transportation fee increase –Peter Dewey, Assistant Director of Transportation Services

Dewey said that the UW Transportation System includes products and associated fees for various modes of commuter transportation to the UW Seattle campus in the U-District. The Transportation System is a self-sustaining unit. Fees are adjusted every three or four years to help manage the demand for commuter transportation services and to provide revenue to support the system. The last adjustment was in 2000.

Dewey said a proposal of fee changes is presently in review. If approved, the changes become effective on July 1, 2004. The proposal has been reviewed by the University Transportation Committee (UTC) and will be reviewed in other forums. A public hearing is planned for April, with a proposal presented to the Board of Regents in May.

The new proposal includes two departures from the practices of the past decade. First, an additional fee for carpool parking is proposed. Carpool fees are proposed to improve the cost recovery of providing parking spaces. Second, a fee for UPASSes offered to SOV (single occupancy vehicle) and motorcycle permit holders is proposed. This fee is proposed to help recover the cost of providing transit to this group.

For the next three years, single occupancy vehicles parking is proposed to increase by 12% per year and UPASS fees are proposed to increase 10% per year. Dewey pointed out that increases in parking and UPASS fees are necessary primarily for two reasons. Growth in transit use and an expected increase in transit fares in 2005 will increase FY 02-03 transit costs by 50% to \$15.4 million per year by FY 2007. Additionally, a capital program to acquire parking facilities replacing stalls lost to building development and to construct office space for Transportation Services offices is expected to require issuance of \$14.5 million in debt, with an associated annual repayment cost of \$1.3 million.

Dewey stressed two central reasons for the University’s investment in transit service. First, the Campus Master Plan and an agreement with the City of Seattle require that vehicle trips to and from campus be limited. The University’s population is expected to grow in the coming years. Therefore, decreasing percentages of people may drive, and more will take transit. Second, it is cheaper to pay for transit than it is to pay to acquire additional parking inventory that would otherwise be needed to accommodate increased numbers of vehicles. Considering parking facility construction alone, the net cost of debt service per parking stall per year is more than four times the net cost of providing Metro transit trips per year. Parking Services will, however, pay for facilities to replace parking inventory lost to building development.

Dewey pointed out that only 43% of faculty drive alone to the UW campus. 38% of staff drive alone to the campus; and 16% of students. He also emphasized: “Because we have the UPASS, fewer people drive; and, despite increased campus population, *you* don’t have to pay for additional parking spaces.” And he said that it is easier for people to find parking space on campus now than it was fifteen years ago. As for

UPASS usage, he said, “Some people *never* use the UPASS, and others *always* use it.” Under the new proposal, there will be no complementary UPASSes for SOV users.

Dewey said there are 1,000 unused parking spaces on campus at present. “We can *only* have 12,300 parking spaces on campus,” he added. He said that, in addition to increased transit costs, a “smaller part of the reason for the fee increase is that “we will be adding spaces where they are most needed.” He said, “We have put an option to purchase the 4545 building, at the corner of 15th Avenue N.E. and N.E. 45th St. We’re proposing to expand the West Campus Garage by some 350 spaces. This will satisfy the needs of those working in the new Bioengineering Building, and others in nearby facilities.”

Dewey said, “The fee will go up slower in the Montlake parking area ‘E1’.” In response to a question from the council, he reiterated two features of the proposal: 1) that there will be no complementary UPASSes for SOVs; and 2) that there will be a nominal fee for carpool parking on campus.

And, reiterating the approval process, he noted that the University Transportation Committee modified and approved the proposal in February 2004; and that other major steps in the approval process include assessment and review by the Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services; a public hearing for comments and recommendations by the entire University community; and assessment and approval by the Board of Regents (at their meeting in May). The proposal, if successful in the approval process, would go into effect in July 2004.

Dewey said that students, who mostly engage in “transient parking,” will be required to pay for parking with a Husky Card; that other forms of payment have simply proved too time-consuming, and have created unnecessarily long queues. “This will be much better than paying with cash,” he noted.

Whang said, “The 10% increase for the UPASS is a *large* increase.” Other council members concurred with Whang’s assessment. Dewey conceded: “Yes. People *are* concerned about that.” Whang continued: “If you wanted to *discourage* people from driving to campus, you’d raise the parking fee *way* up” Dewey said, “We don’t expect all people to stop driving, as they provide a significant source of funding for the UPASS program.” He added: “There is an education we need to provide people with. For example, we need to have people understand that Transportation Services does *not* pay for the UPASSes, but rather, pays for the number of individual trips *taken* with UPASSes.”

Faculty opportunities in the U-District – Aaron Hoard, Deputy Director, Office of Regional Affairs

Hoard mentioned five “Board opportunities” that are open to those interested in volunteering for groups and organizations in the U-District. The five groups and organizations are: 1) **University Heights Center for the Community Association**, located in the historic University Heights School building. The Center is seeking volunteers to serve on its board of directors: contact Richard Sorenson at director@uhcca.org or 206-527-4278; 2) **Wallingford Boys and Girls Club**, which has served youth ages 5-18 for more than 50 years. The club is looking for volunteers to serve on its board of directors: contact Jaime Flaxman at jflaxman@positiveplace.org or 206-547-7261; 3) **ROOTS (Rising Out Of The Shadows)**, that serves persons in the U-District who lack the essentials of food, shelter and clothing, with a focus on homeless and street-involved young adults. ROOTS is looking for board members with expertise in fund raising, social services in law: contact yashelter@hotmail.com or 206-632-5163; 4) **Friends of Ravenna Playground**, formed to redevelop the children’s play area in east Ravenna Park. The current play area is grossly inadequate in terms of supporting the number of children in the community: contact Ella Thompson at friends@my.dialzip.net or visit www.scn.org/ravennaplayground; 5) **USM (University Street Ministry)**, a small non-profit service organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the homeless youth in the U-District. This group is looking for board members to help with coordination of fundraising events, solicitation of donations, and speaking engagements to generate support. Contact Mark Snow at markstime@hotmail.com.

Honorary Degrees – Norm Arkans

Arkans said University Relations is creating a document on its “Commencement” Website to delineate the procedures for proposing, assessing, and approving candidates for Honorary Degrees. Currently they exist only in FCUR minutes.

Arkans informed the council that noted playwright August Wilson, a longtime Seattle resident, will be the Commencement Speaker this June. Wilson has won numerous major awards, including the Pulitzer Prize.

Arkans shared two proposals for Honorary Degrees with the council. The council unanimously approved both candidates.

Arkans said the recipient of the Outstanding Public Service Award for 2004 is Millie Russell, Assistant to the Vice President of Minority Affairs. Russell is a legendary figure at the University of Washington, and has performed immeasurable work on behalf of minority students and others. Russell is only the second staff representative on whom the Outstanding Public Service Award has been conferred.

Arkans encouraged council members to attend the annual Recognition Event on June 9th, from 3:00 – 5:00 in Meany Hall. Russell will receive her award at that time, as will winners of the Distinguished Teaching Award and other UW honors.

Dr. Ira Harkavy’s visit to FCUR on May 4th

Seifer informed the council that Dr. Ira Harkavy, Associate Vice President and Director of the Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania, will visit the council at its meeting on May 4th, the same day that he presents the Walker-Ames Lecture at Kane Hall, Room 120, at 7:00 p.m.

Seifer said the council “can discuss whatever it wants to discuss” with Dr. Harkavy. She said a good question to raise for discussion would be: What kind of structures are most effective at universities for community service? Another would be: What are good models and practices for fund raising at universities? De Tornyay suggested the question: What are good strategies for encouraging faculty committees and councils to become involved in university-community partnerships? Seifer asked council members to reflect on other questions that might be addressed to Dr. Harkavy.

Seifer said Dr. Harkavy will also be meeting with Louis Fox, Vice Provost of Educational Partnerships and Learning Technologies, and with Christine Goodheart, Executive Director of University-Community Partnerships, Educational Partnerships and Learning Technologies.

Arkans said, “Any creative ideas that Dr. Harkavy has will be good for the council.” Robertson said it would be interesting to hear Dr. Harkavy discuss “the differences between state and private universities with respect to partnerships and relationships with the community.”

Next meeting

Council members are asked to note that the May 4th FCUR meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. in 36 Gerberding Hall (where today’s meeting was held).

Brian Taylor
Recorder